

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 11-14 without prejudice to continued prosecution. The claims and their status are shown below.

1. (Previously presented) A method for indirectly determining blood clotting status INR (International Normalized Ratio) having the following steps:

a) providing a sample of body fluid which contains a protein which can be modified by a vitamin K-dependent  $\gamma$ -carboxylase, wherein the body fluid is plasma, blood, saliva, or urine,

b) measuring at least two concentrations selected from a group consisting of a first concentration (C1) of carboxylated protein, a second concentration (C2) of decarboxylated protein and a total concentration (C3) of carboxylated and decarboxylated protein, where the first concentration (C1) is measured using a first antibody (A1), the second concentration is measured using a second antibody (A2) and the third concentration (C3) is measured using a third antibody (A3),

c) forming a first ratio (R1) from the first (C1) and second concentration (C2) or forming a second ratio (R2) from the third (C3) and first concentration (C1) or forming a third ratio (R3) from the third (C3) and second concentration (C2),

where a concentration (C1, C2, C3) which is necessary for forming the first (R1), second (R2) or third (R3) ratio and is not measured in step b) is calculated in accordance with the following relation:

$$C3 - C2 = C1$$

and

d) correlating the first, second or third ratio (R1, R2, R3) with the blood clotting status.

2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, where in step b) additionally at least a first competitor (K1) is used to measure the first concentration (C1), a second competitor (K2) is used to measure the second concentration (C2) or a third competitor (K3) is used to measure the third concentration (C3).

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, where at least one of the antibodies (A1, A2, A3) or at least one of the competitors (K1, K2, K3) is conjugated to a labeling substance.

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, where in place of measuring the at least two concentrations as in step b), a combined signal correlating therewith is generated and measured by using two antibodies selected from a group consisting of the first (A1), the second (A2) and the third antibody (A3) and, where appropriate, at least one of the competitors (K1, K2, K3), and is directly correlated with the blood clotting status.

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, where the combined signal is a combined color generated by fluorescent dyes, a fluorescent signal elicited by the Förster effect or a reduction caused by the quencher in a fluorescent signal.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, where the measurement of the first (C1), second (C2) and/or third concentration (C3) or of the combined signal takes place by an immunological method.

8. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, where in the immunological method, at least one of the antibodies (A1, A2, A3) is immobilized on a support.

9. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, where the first (C1), second (C2) and/or third concentration (C3) and/or the combined signal is measured by means of a color reaction or fluorescence detection.

10. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, where the protein which can be modified by a vitamin K-dependent  $\gamma$ -carboxylase is prothrombin, factor VII, factor IX, factor X, nephrocalcin or osteocalcin.

11-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the labeling substance is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a fluorescent dye, a quencher, a gold particle, a latex particle, biotin, streptavidin, and avidin.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of a plastic, a magnetic particle, a latex particle, a gold particle, a test strip, and a membrane.